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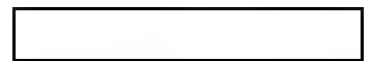


Middle East-Africa-South Asia

STAFF NOTES

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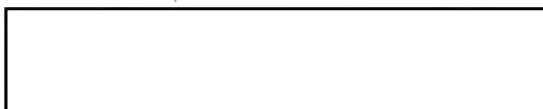
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State Dept. review completed

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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Israel*Perspective on the Communist Victory in Nazareth*

The US embassy in Tel Aviv interprets the decisive victory of the Rakah Party, a Communist group, in municipal elections in Nazareth this week as essentially an Arab protest vote against neglect by the Israeli establishment and mismanagement by its local representatives.

The outcome of the election showed that the party has established itself as the only legal and credible spokesman for Arab grievances and does not reflect a trend toward communism either in Nazareth, Israel's largest predominantly Arab town, or within the country's Arab community in general.

The embassy sees a change in the self-perception of Israeli Arabs over recent years as an additional factor. Before the 1973 war, the country's Arabs tended to view themselves as Israelis of Arab background. Now they see themselves more often as Arabs who live in Israel.

Rakah took over 67 percent of the vote as compared with less than 40 percent in 1972 when the last municipal election was held. Candidates associated with the nationally dominant Labor Alignment received only about 12 percent of the vote.

The new mayor of Nazareth will be Tawfiq Sayyad, one of four Rakah Knesset members. The party will hold 11 seats on the 17-member municipal council.

The election result apparently came as a surprise to all the parties that took part, including the winners. Officials of the powerful Israeli labor federation, Histadrut, who worked for the Alignment candidates, were stunned by Rakah's margin and read into it ominous implications for the future of Jewish-Arab relations inside Israel.

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Kenya*Veteran Kamba Politician to be Rehabilitated*

President Jomo Kenyatta has reportedly decided to pardon Paul Ngei, a leading politician who had been convicted last month of election law violations, and deprived of both his parliamentary seat and his ministerial post. Ngei was once a close ally of Kenyatta; the two were incarcerated together during the 1950s for complicity in the Mau Mau uprising. As Kenyatta's minister of local government, Ngei was the highest-ranking official from Kenya's fourth largest tribe, the Kamba.

The election law proceedings were initiated by a political opponent who claimed Ngei had intimidated him into withdrawing from a parliamentary election contest against Ngei last year. Kenyatta, who has reportedly intervened recently to block similar proceedings against at least two other officials, decided not to do so in Ngei's case.

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The ordinarily astute Kenyatta appears to have miscalculated the reaction of Ngei's fellow Kamba tribesmen to the minister's expulsion from the government. Kenyatta's belated decision to pardon Ngei probably was prompted by a desire to avoid antagonizing the Kamba, who are strongly represented in the Kenyan army.

Once pardoned by Kenyatta, Ngei is expected to run in a parliamentary by-election in mid-January. He is likely to win and be given an important cabinet position.

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